



Request for Quotation

Consultation Services for Broadband and Associated Infrastructure Mapping Project

Introduction:

This Request for Quotations seeks to hire the services of a successful consultant(s) to assist in the development of a GIS based inventory of Broadband Services and Infrastructure throughout Northern Ontario.

Blue Sky Net, the lead proponent, is a Regional Technology Development Organization contracted by FedNor, the Northern Ontario regional development organization of Industry Canada, to enhance Broadband connectivity, awareness and applications in the Districts of Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury, Manitoulin, Algoma and the Township of Muskoka Lakes.

Blue Sky Net, Muskoka Community Network and NEOnet are interested in securing the services of a qualified individual, consulting firm, or GIS provider who can demonstrate proven GIS development and implementation experience as it relates to broadband assessment and inventory, in a rural/northern environment to lead the development of the inventory.

Consultants have the sole responsibility to register their intention to bid to ensure they receive any Addendum or notifications regarding this RFQ.

A softcopy of the complete bid submission must be submitted no later than 11:59 P.M. local time, Monday, Feb 13, 2011. Submissions received after this date will not be accepted. Consultants may elect to submit hardcopy quotations or additional information to the address below.

Blue Sky Economic Growth Corporation
204 First Ave West
North Bay, Ontario, P1B 3C1

Phone: (705) 476-0874 Ext 205

The lowest or any bid not necessarily accepted.

Blue Sky Net

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

Consultation Services for Broadband and Associated Infrastructure Mapping Project

Timelines and Contact Information

Copies of the RFQ document are available Jan 27, 2012 at www.blueskynet.ca/ ,
www.neonet.on.ca and www.mcnet.ca .

If you intend to submit a proposal, please submit an e-mail with the subject title “Consultation Services, Broadband Mapping” to jeff.buell@blueskynet.ca by 11:59 P.M. Friday Feb 3, 2012. Please provide a single point of contact. Only registered consultant’s proposals will be accepted.

Timelines

Friday Jan. 27, 2012	RFQ Issued
Friday Feb. 3, 2012	Deadline for submission of Intent to Bid
Monday Feb. 13, 2012	Deadline for RFQ Submissions
Friday Feb. 17, 2012	RFQ Evaluations Completed
Tuesday Feb. 21, 2012	Notification of Successful Consultant(s)

Background

In spite of the recognition of the need for broadband internet access, and the efforts of private sector, community based network organizations (CBNs) and provincial and federal funding programs, some areas remain un-served and others do not have the bandwidth capacity essential to serve the community needs for now, and the future. Due to low population densities, and environmental and geographic factors private sector service providers have difficulty justifying the large investment necessary to extend basic service and increase the bandwidth capacity of their existing networks.

This project aims to identify the gaps in existing service areas, the bandwidths available in serviced areas and also identify clusters of demand for the service in these under served areas. This will be done by mapping and analyzing the existing bandwidth capacity, service by type and provider, service options and or gaps in all areas, and by mapping demand based on population data and 'self-identified' customers on Geographic Information System (GIS).

Although the primary focus is to create a database and map of broadband coverage, this project will also map all related ICT infrastructure associated with this service, such as but not limited to; tower inventories, fibre optic cable routs and capacity, network electronics (DSLAM and Cable Modem plant equipment) and capacity of other transport (backbone) infrastructure.

Deliverables and Submission Requirements

The consultant is required to provide a brief description of their GIS solution. The consultant will be prepared to present and discuss the merits of this preferred option. The recommended approach and design is to include the applications development, network requirements, database, operational and maintenance standards, training requirements, etc. and the recommended organizational structure required to operate, manage, and maintain the GIS that respects the guiding principles established for this project. The consultant will also provide the costs of implementation, maintenance and data gathering.

The consultant will also take on the responsibility of communicating with and receiving data from telecom providers.

Requirements

The document is intended to encourage responses from potential consultants and to provide a fair and open process. Submissions are invited from any individual company or organization with an interest in participating in the proposed project either as a single consultant or as a consortium of consultants.

In the case of a bid from a consortium, details on the consortium including a statement of its legal status and the relationships amongst the consortium members are to be described. There must be one consultant identified as the prime contact who assumes the overall responsibility and liability for the bid. An executed consortium agreement of all participants will be required as a condition of award of contract.

Consultants may respond in any format they wish providing they address the following items:

- An overview of the suggested approach to the project.
- A profile of the consultant team, including relevant past work experience.
- A clear, concise and detailed staged work plan which identifies the services to be provided, number of meetings, time lines and the costs associated with each step required to complete the entire project.
- A description of previous projects of similar size, along with reference contacts.

RFQ Questions

Blue Sky Net will not accept or respond to oral questions or requests for clarification on any matter pertaining to the document from any respondent. All questions and requests for clarification shall be submitted by e-mail to jeff.buell@blueskynet.ca . All questions and requests for clarification, together with Blue Sky Net's response, shall be e-mailed to each registered bidder. An exception may be made if the respondent makes a proprietary claim for the question or request for clarification and provides justification. Blue Sky Net may contact a bidder with the strict purpose to clarify a submitted question.

Questions and requests for clarification shall be accepted up to seventy-two (72) hours before the bid closing date and time.

Conditions

- 1) Blue Sky Net or any of its associated members shall not be obligated in any way by the respondent's response to the document. Respondents costs related to the preparation of a response to the RFQ document shall be entirely the responsibility of the respondent. Expenses of any nature incurred by the respondent prior to the signing of an agreement or contract shall be the sole responsibility of the respondent and may not be charged to or claimed from Blue Sky Net or its associated entities in any manner.
- 2) Blue Sky Net reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.
- 3) All materials submitted in response to this RFQ become the property of Blue Sky Net. Proposals and supporting materials will not be returned to consultants.
- 4) If documents are to be submitted via email attachment, single message size must not exceed 10 MB. Multiple messages of lesser size will be accepted.
- 5) BSN will accept proposals from a consortium of consultants subject to the following conditions:
 - i. One consultant assumes the responsibility of the prime consultant for all work and services.

- ii. There is a clear legal contracting entity that will sign an agreement with Blue Sky Net if the consortium is selected as the successful bidder and who assumes all obligations of the consortium.
 - iii. The consortium must have an executed agreement amongst its members that clearly identifies the obligations of each member of the consortium and recourse in the event of non-performance by any consortium member.
- 6) Project funding is dependent upon outside sources that have not yet been secured.
- 7) Prices quoted are to be valid for 90 days from date of receipt of proposal.